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to the normal prostate sample indicating a likelihood  
that the prostate carcinoma is aggressive.

<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. (Amended) A method for determining the likelihood that a prostate hyperplasia is a benign prostate hyperplasia comprising:

- (a) obtaining an appropriate sample of the hyperplasia;
- (b) determining the amount of p27 RNA present in the sample;  
and
- (c) comparing the amount so determined to the amount of p27 RNA present in a normal prostate sample, a decreased amount of p27 RNA in the hyperplasia sample relative to the normal prostate sample indicating a likelihood that the hyperplasia is benign prostate hyperplasia.

<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>. (Amended) The method of claim <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>, further comprising determining and comparing the amounts of p27 protein expressed in the hyperplasia sample and normal prostate sample, wherein this additional step is performed either before or after determining the amount of p27 RNA present in the hyperplasia and normal prostate samples.

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#### REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are pending and under examination in the subject application. Applicants have hereinabove amended claims 1-3 merely to introduce minor grammatical and format changes. Applicants maintain that these amendments raise no issue of new matter, and respectfully request entry of this Amendment. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-3 will still be pending and under examination.

In view of the arguments set forth below, applicants maintain that

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